

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Continuation Application of:)
)
Niels C. HOLCH et al.)
)
Application No.: Unassigned)
)
Filed: August 6, 2001)
)
Parent Application No.: 08/877,375) Group Art Unit: 3713
)
Parent Application Filed: June 17, 1997) Examiner: J. Harrison
)
For: A CASHLESS COMPUTERIZED)
VIDEO GAME SYSTEM AND)
METHOD)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

page 1, replace the paragraph beginning with "This application" with the following new paragraph:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application no. 08/877,375, filed June

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17, 1997; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application no. 08/719,651, filed September 25, 1996, now U.S. patent no. 5,674,128; which in turn is a continuation of U.S. patent application no. 08/391,509, filed February 21, 1995, now abandoned. The contents of all the aforesaid applications are hereby incorporated by reference.--; and

pages 2-3, after the heading "Summary of the Invention," replace all paragraphs on these pages with the following new paragraphs:

--Systems and methods consistent with the present invention allow a player to play a game of chance. The system may include a plurality of game terminals and a central controller connected to each of the plurality of game terminals. Each game terminal may include means for receiving a game choice (e.g., a selection of predetermined numbers, colors, and/or symbols) and a wager amount for a game from a player, means for determining the result of the game, and means for transmitting game information (e.g., result of the game, the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and/or a time) after each game for which the wager amount was received. The central controller may include means for receiving, from the game terminals, the transmitted game information after each game for which the wager amount was received.

The game terminal may further include means for receiving player identification information from the player. In addition, game terminals may or may not accept coins or bills. Moreover, the central controller may further include means for adjusting player account information of the player after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager

amount was received.

The invention also includes a method of operating games in a system that includes a plurality of player terminals and a central controller. One of the plurality of game terminals may receive a game choice and a wager amount for a game from a player. The result of the game may be determined. Then, the game terminal may transmit game information (e.g., result of the game, the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and/or a time) to the central controller after each game for which the wager amount was received. The central controller may in turn adjust player account information of the player after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager amount was received.

Both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory, and intended to provide further explanation of the claimed invention.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-52 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claims 53-144, as follows:

53. (New) A gaming system, comprising:

a plurality of game terminals, each game terminal including

means for receiving a game choice and a wager amount for a game from a player,

means for determining the result of the game, and
means for transmitting game information after each game for which the wager
amount was received; and
a central controller, connected to each of the plurality of game terminals, and including
means for receiving, from the game terminals, the transmitted game information
after each game for which the wager amount was received.

54. (New) The system of claim 53, wherein the game terminal further includes means
for receiving player identification information from the player.

55. (New) The system of claim 53, wherein the game terminals do not accept coins.

56. (New) The system of claim 53, wherein the game terminals do not accept bills.

57. (New) The system of claim 53, wherein the game information includes at least one
of the result of the game, the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal
number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and a time.

58. (New) The system of claim 57, wherein the central controller further includes means
for adjusting player account information of the player after each game according to the result of

the game for which the wager amount was received.

59. (New) The system of claim 58; wherein the adjusting means in the central controller includes:

means for crediting the player account information when the player wins the game, and
means for debiting the player account information when the player loses the game.

60. (New) A gaming system, comprising:

a plurality of game terminals, each game terminal including

means for receiving a game choice and a wager amount for a game from a player,

means for determining the result of the game, and

means for transmitting game information after each game for which the wager

amount was received, the game information including the result of the game; and

a central controller, connected to each of the plurality of game terminals, and including

means for receiving, from the game terminals, the transmitted game information

after each game for which the wager amount was received.

61. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the game terminal further includes means
for receiving player identification information from the player.

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62. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the game terminals do not accept coins.

63. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the game terminals do not accept bills.

64. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the game information further includes at least one of the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and a time.

65. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the central controller further includes means for adjusting player account information of the player after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager amount was received.

66. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the adjusting means in the central controller includes:

means for crediting the player account information when the player wins the game, and

means for debiting the player account information when the player loses the game.

67. (New) A gaming system, comprising:

a plurality of game terminals, each game terminal including

means for receiving a game choice and a wager amount for a game from a player,

means for determining the result of the game, and

means for transmitting game information after each game for which the wager amount was received, the game information including the result of the game; and

a central controller, connected to each of the plurality of game terminals, and including

means for receiving, from the game terminals, the transmitted game information after each game for which the wager amount was received, and

means for adjusting player account information of the player after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager amount was received.

68. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein the game terminal further includes means for receiving player identification information from the player.

69. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein the game terminals do not accept coins.

70. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein the game terminals do not accept bills.

71. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein the adjusting means in the central controller includes:

means for crediting the player account information when the player wins the game, and

means for debiting the player account information when the player loses the game.

72. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein the game information further includes at least one of the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and a time.

73. (New) A method of operating games in a system that includes a plurality of game terminals and a central controller, the method comprising:

receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals, a game choice and a wager amount for a game, from a player;

determining the result of the game; and

transmitting, by one of the plurality of game terminals, game information to the central controller after each game for which the wager amount was received.

74. (New) The method of claim 73, further comprising receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals, player identification information from the player.

75. (New) The method of claim 73, wherein receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals, a game choice and a wager amount for a game includes receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals that does not accept coins, a game choice and a wager amount for a game.

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76. (New) The method of claim 73, wherein receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals, a game choice and a wager amount for a game includes receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals that does not accept bills, a game choice and a wager amount for a game.

77. (New) The method of claim 73, wherein transmitting, by one of the plurality of game terminals, game information to the central controller after each game for which the wager amount was received comprises transmitting game information including at least one of the result of the game, the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and a time to the central controller.

78. (New) The method of claim 77, further comprising adjusting, by the central controller, player account information of the player after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager amount was received.

79. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein adjusting player account information includes:

crediting the player account information when the player wins the game, and
debiting the player account information when the player loses the game.

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80. (New) A method of operating games in a system that includes a plurality of game terminals and a central controller, the method comprising:

receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals, a game choice and a wager amount for a game, from a player;

determining the result of the game; and

transmitting, by one of the plurality of game terminals, game information to the central controller after each game for which the wager amount was received, the game information including the result of the game.

81. (New) The method of claim 80, further comprising receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals, player identification information from the player.

82. (New) The method of claim 80, wherein receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals, a game choice and a wager amount for a game includes receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals that does not accept coins, a game choice and a wager amount for a game.

83. (New) The method of claim 80, wherein receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals, a game choice and a wager amount for a game includes receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals that does not accept bills, a game choice and a wager amount for a

game.

84. (New) The method of claim 80, further comprising transmitting, by one of the plurality of game terminals, additional game information to the central controller after each game for which the wager amount was received, the additional game information including at least one of the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and a time.

85. (New) The method of claim 80, further comprising adjusting, by the central controller, player account information of the player after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager amount was received.

86. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein adjusting player account information includes:

crediting the player account information when the player wins the game, and
debiting the player account information when the player loses the game.

87. (New) A method of operating games in a system that includes a plurality of game terminals and a central controller, the method comprising:

receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals, a game choice and a wager amount

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for a game, from a player;

determining the result of the game;

transmitting, by one of the plurality of game terminals, game information to the central controller after each game for which the wager amount was received, the game information including the result of the game; and

adjusting, by the central controller, player account information of the player after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager amount was received.

88. (New) The method of claim 87, further comprising receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals, player identification information from the player.

89. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals, a game choice and a wager amount for a game includes receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals that does not accept coins, a game choice and a wager amount for a game.

90. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals, a game choice and a wager amount for a game includes receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals that does not accept bills, a game choice and a wager amount for a game.

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91. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein adjusting player account information includes:

crediting the player account information when the player wins the game, and
debiting the player account information when the player loses the game.

92. (New) The method of claim 87, further comprising transmitting, by one of the plurality of game terminals, additional game information to the central controller after each game for which the wager amount was received, the additional game information including at least one of the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and a time.

93. (New) A game terminal for a gaming system that includes a central controller, the game terminal comprising:

means for receiving a game choice and a wager amount for a game from a player;
means for determining the result of the game; and
means for transmitting game information to the central controller after each game for which the wager amount was received.

94. (New) The game terminal of claim 93, wherein the game information includes at least one of the result of the game, the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game

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terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and a time.

95. (New) The game terminal of claim 93, further comprising means for receiving player identification information from the player.

96. (New) The game terminal of claim 93, wherein the game terminal does not accept coins.

97. (New) The game terminal of claim 93, wherein the game terminal does not accept bills.

98. (New) A game terminal for a gaming system that includes a central controller, the game terminal comprising:

means for receiving a game choice and a wager amount for a game from a player;

means for determining the result of the game; and

means for transmitting game information to the central controller after each game for which the wager amount was received, the game information including the result of the game.

99. (New) The game terminal of claim 98, wherein the game information further includes at least one of the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal

number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and a time.

100. (New) The game terminal of claim 98, further comprising means for receiving player identification information from the player.

101. (New) The game terminal of claim 98, wherein the game terminal does not accept coins.

102. (New) The game terminal of claim 98, wherein the game terminal does not accept bills.

103. (New) A central controller for a gaming system that includes a plurality of game terminals, the central controller comprising:

means for communicating with each of the plurality of game terminals; and

means for receiving, from the game terminals, game information after each game for which a wager amount was received by the game terminals.

104. (New) The central controller of claim 103, wherein the game information includes at least one of the result of the game, the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and a time.

105. (New) The central controller of claim 104, further comprising means for adjusting player account information after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager amount was received.

106. (New) A central controller for a gaming system that includes a plurality of game terminals, the central controller comprising:

means for communicating with each of the plurality of game terminals; and

means for receiving, from the game terminals, game information after each game for which a wager amount was received by the game terminals, the game information including the result of the game.

107. (New) The central controller of claim 106, wherein the game information further includes at least one of the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and a time.

108. (New) The central controller of claim 106, further comprising means for adjusting player account information after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager amount was received.

109. (New) A method of operating games in a system that includes a plurality of game

terminals and a central controller, the method comprising:

communicating with each of the plurality of game terminals; and

receiving, at the central controller, game information from the game terminals after each game for which a wager amount was received by the game terminals.

110. (New) The method of claim 109, wherein receiving, at the central controller, game information comprises receiving at least one of the result of the game, the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and a time.

111. (New) The method of claim 110, further comprising adjusting, at the central controller, player account information after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager amount was received. .

112. (New) A method of operating games in a system that includes a plurality of game terminals and a central controller, the method comprising:

communicating with each of the plurality of game terminals; and

receiving, at the central controller, game information from the game terminals after each game for which a wager amount was received by the game terminals, the game information including a result of the game.

113. (New) The method of claim 112, further comprising receiving, at the central controller, additional game information after each game for which a wager amount was received by the game terminals, the additional game information including at least one of the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and a time.

114. (New) The method of claim 112, further comprising adjusting, at the central controller, player account information after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager amount was received.

115. (New) A central controller for a gaming system that includes a plurality of game terminals, the central controller comprising:

means for communicating with each of the plurality of game terminals;

means for receiving, from the game terminals, game information after each game for which a wager amount was received by the game terminals, the game information including the result of the game and the wager amount; and

means for adjusting player account information after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager amount was received.

116. (New) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a

computer to perform a method of operating games in a system that includes a plurality of game terminals and a central controller, the method comprising:

communicating with each of the plurality of game terminals; and

receiving, at the central controller, game information from the game terminals after each game for which a wager amount was received by the game terminals.

117. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 116, wherein receiving, at the central controller, game information comprises receiving at least one of the result of the game, the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and a time.

118. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 117, wherein the method further comprises adjusting, at the central controller, player account information after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager amount was received.

119. (New) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer to perform a method of operating games in a system that includes a plurality of game terminals and a central controller, the method comprising:

communicating with each of the plurality of game terminals; and

receiving, at the central controller, game information from the game terminals after each

game for which a wager amount was received by the game terminals, the game information including a result of the game.

120. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 119, wherein the method further comprises receiving, at the central controller, additional game information after each game for which a wager amount was received by the game terminals, the additional game information including at least one of the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and a time.

121. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 119, wherein the method further comprises adjusting, at the central controller, player account information after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager amount was received.

122. (New) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a computer to perform a method of operating games in a system that includes a plurality of game terminals and a central controller, the method comprising:

communicating with each of the plurality of game terminals;

receiving, at the central controller, game information from the game terminals after each game for which a wager amount was received by the game terminals, the game information including a result of the game; and

adjusting, at the central controller, player account information after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager amount was received.

123. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 122, wherein the method further comprises receiving, at the central controller, additional game information after each game for which a wager amount was received by the game terminals, the additional game information including at least one of the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and a time.

124. (New) A gaming system, comprising:

a plurality of game terminals, each terminal including

means for receiving a game choice for a game from a player,

means for determining the result of the game using a set of random numbers, and

means for transmitting the result after each game for which the game choice was received; and

a central controller, connected to each of the plurality of game terminals, and including

means for receiving the result from the game terminals after each game for which the game choice was received by the game terminals.

125. (New) The system of claim 124, wherein each game terminal further includes

means for receiving player identification information from the player.

126. (New) The system of claim 124, further comprising a game server, connected to the plurality of game terminals, the game server including means for sending to the game terminals the set of random numbers.

127. (New) The system of claim 124, wherein each game terminal includes a game server for generating the set of random numbers.

128. (New) The system of claim 124, wherein the central controller includes a game server for generating the set of random numbers.

129. (New) A gaming system, comprising:

a plurality of game terminals, each game terminal including

means for receiving a game choice for a game from a player,

means for determining the result of the game using a set of random numbers, and

means for transmitting the result after each game for which the game choice was received; and

a central controller, connected to each of the plurality of game terminals, and including

means for receiving the result from the game terminals after each game for which

the game choice was received by the game terminals, and

means for adjusting player account information of the player after each game according to the result of the game received from the game terminal.

130. (New) The system of claim 129, wherein each game terminal further includes means for receiving player identification information from the player.

131. (New) The system of claim 129, further comprising a game server, connected to the plurality of game terminals, the game server including means for sending to the game terminals the set of random numbers.

132. (New) The system of claim 129, wherein each game terminal includes a game server for generating the set of random numbers.

133. (New) The system of claim 129, wherein the central controller includes a game server for generating the set of random numbers.

134. (New) A method of operating games in a system that includes a plurality of game terminals and a central controller, the method comprising:

receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals, a game choice and a wager amount

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for a game, from a player;

determining the result of the game using a set of random numbers; and

transmitting, by one of the plurality of game terminals, game information to the central controller after each game for which the wager amount was received, the game information including the result of the game.

135. (New) The method of claim 134, further comprising receiving the set of random numbers from a game server.

136. (New) The method of claim 134, further comprising generating the set of random numbers within the game terminals.

137. (New) The method of claim 134, further comprising receiving the set of random numbers from the central controller.

138. (New) The method of claim 134, further comprising transmitting, by one of the plurality of game terminals, additional game information to the central controller after each game for which the wager amount was received, the additional game information including at least one of the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and a time.

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139. (New) A method of operating games in a system that includes a plurality of game terminals and a central controller, the method comprising:

receiving, at one of the plurality of game terminals, a game choice and a wager amount for a game, from a player;

determining the result of the game using a set of random numbers;

transmitting, by one of the plurality of game terminals, game information to the central controller after each game for which the wager amount was received, the game information including the result of the game and the wager amount; and

adjusting, by the central controller, player account information of the player after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager amount was received.

140. (New) The method of claim 139, further comprising receiving the set of random numbers from a game server.

141. (New) The method of claim 139, further comprising generating the set of random numbers within the game terminals.

142. (New) The method of claim 139, further comprising receiving the set of random numbers from the central controller.

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143. (New) A gaming method, comprising:
receiving, at a game terminal, a game choice and a wager amount for a game from a player;
determining, at the game terminal, the result of the game; and
transmitting, from the game terminal to a central controller, game information after each
game for which the wager amount was received, the game information including the result of the
game and the wager amount.

144. (New) The method of claim 143, further comprising receiving, at the game
terminal, player identification information from the player.

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have amended the specification, have
canceled claims 1-52 without prejudice or disclaimer, and have added new claims 53-144. No
new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment,
please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: August 6, 2001

By: Naveen Modi
Naveen Modi
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APPENDIX TO PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT OF AUGUST 6, 2001

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, lines 2-4, as follows:

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application no. 08/877,375, filed June 17, 1997; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application [Serial No.] no. 08/719,651, filed September 25, 1996, now U.S. patent no. 5,674,128; which in turn is a continuation of U.S. patent application no. 08/391,509, filed February 21, 1995, now abandoned. [the] The contents of all the aforesaid applications [which] are hereby incorporated by reference.

Pages 2-3, after the heading "Summary of the Invention," replace all paragraphs on these pages with the following new paragraphs:

--Systems and methods consistent with the present invention allow a player to play a game of chance. The system may include a plurality of game terminals and a central controller connected to each of the plurality of game terminals. Each game terminal may include means for receiving a game choice (e.g., a selection of predetermined numbers, colors, and/or symbols) and a wager amount for a game from a player, means for determining the result of the game, and means for transmitting game information (e.g., result of the game, the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and/or a time) after each game for which the wager amount was received. The central controller may include means for receiving, from the game terminals, the transmitted game information after each game for which the wager amount was received.

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The game terminal may further include means for receiving player identification information from the player. In addition, game terminals may or may not accept coins or bills. Moreover, the central controller may further include means for adjusting player account information of the player after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager amount was received.

The invention also includes a method of operating games in a system that includes a plurality of player terminals and a central controller. One of the plurality of game terminals may receive a game choice and a wager amount for a game from a player. The result of the game may be determined. Then, the game terminal may transmit game information (e.g., result of the game, the wager amount, player's updated account balance, a game terminal number, a game type code, a game number, a date, and/or a time) to the central controller after each game for which the wager amount was received. The central controller may in turn adjust player account information of the player after each game according to the result of the game for which the wager amount was received.

Both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory, and intended to provide further explanation of the claimed invention.--

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